<center>REMARKS</center>

Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be reexamined.

The May 25, 2007, Office Action ("Office Action") rejected Claims 1-9 and 20-26. Claims 10-19 had previously been withdrawn. Claims 1-9 and 20-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 1-9 and 20-26 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0169769 ("Kincaid et al.") and under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0177069 ("Li et al.").

Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that all of the claims remaining in this application are clearly enabled by the specification and, as amended, are clearly allowable in view of the teachings of the cited and applied references. Regarding amendments, the subject matter of Claims 5 and 7 has been added to Claim 1 and Claims 5 and 7 canceled. The subject matter of Claims 24 and 25 has been added to Claim 20 and Claims 24 and 25 canceled. In addition, previously withdrawn Claims 10-19 are now canceled as requested in the Office Action.

Prior to discussing in detail why applicants believe that all of the remaining claims in this application are allowable, a brief description of the disclosed subject matter and brief descriptions of the teachings of the cited and applied references are provided. The following discussions of the disclosed subject matter and the cited and applied references are not provided to define the scope or interpretation of any of the claims of this application. Instead, these discussions are provided to help the United States Patent and Trademark Office better appreciate important claim distinctions discussed thereafter.

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Disclosed Subject Matter

A method and computer-readable medium containing instructions for facilitating a search for content from disparate resources is disclosed. A unified search entry interface is displayed to capture search terms. Before searches are conducted, an automated measurement of relevance for each of a plurality of disparate search resources in which to search for occurrences of a search term entered into the unified search entry interface is obtained. The automated measurement of relevance is based on quantified user interaction with the disparate resources. User interaction includes at least one of: the frequency with which the user accesses the resource, the length of time the user accessed the resource, and what the user did with the resource after access. The relevant resources are normalized. In one exemplary embodiment, the relevant importance of a search term occurring in each of the relevant resources is determined and the occurrence of a search term in each of the relevant resources is weighed in accordance with the relevant importance. The disparate results obtained from searching for occurrences of the search term in the normalized relevant disparate resources are blended. In one exemplary embodiment, blending the disparate results includes ranking the results by the weight of the occurrence of the search term, displaying the ranked results by a category associated with the resource, and displaying the locations in which search terms occurred in comparable positions within each category.

Before searches are conducted, the relevant resources may be prescreened and at least one relevant resource selected. Prescreening reduces the number and length of searches, thus saving computing time and resources.

U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0169764 (Kincaid et al.)

Kincaid et al. purportedly discloses a system and method for performing domain-specific knowledge based metasearches. A metasearch engine is one that accesses a plurality of generic

search engines while simultaneously accessing publication-based databases and sequence databases as well as in-house proprietary databases. No prescreening of the sources of data is provided prior to the searches. No automated measurement of relevance of a plurality of disparate resources in which to search for occurrences of a search term entered into a unified search entry interface is obtained, much less an automated measurement of relevance based on quantified user interaction with the disparate resources, the user interaction including at least one of the frequencies with which the user accesses the resource, the length of time the user accessed the resource, and what the user did with the resource after access is disclosed.

Kincaid et al. also purportedly discloses a data mining module for organizing the raw data obtained from the metasearch. A search results collection browser may also be provided for analyzing current browsing patterns of the user for developing weighting factors.

U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0177069 (Li et al.)

Li et al. purportedly discloses a search system for a database that includes records having multiple disparate types of media. The search system supports queries that include different types of search criteria and uses a fuzzy logic method to provide a way to combine the results of different types of search criteria. The fuzzy logic method also allows confidence levels entered by the user for search criteria to be considered in combining results. The fuzzy logic method is applied to the results of the searches. As with Kincaid et al., Li et al. does not disclose prescreening of data sources. Also, no automated measurement of relevance of a plurality of disparate resources in which to search for occurrences of a search term entered into a unified search entry interface is obtained, much less an automated measurement of relevance based on quantified user interaction with the disparate resources, the user interaction including at least one of the frequencies with which the user accesses the resource, the length of time the user accessed the resource, and what the user did with the resource after access is disclosed by Li et al.

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Rejection of Claims 1-9 and 20-26 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

The remarks in the Office Action regarding the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, state that "prior to conducting the search" has not been taught in the specification to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. Applicants respectfully disagree. Lines 1-6 of page 8 of the specification read as follows:

> Whereas conventional methods of determining relevance search the resource's content (or an index representing the content) to determine the frequency with which the search term 108 appears, automated relevance data 118 is **usage data that can be captured over time to provide the unified search client 110 with quantifiable information that indicates, albeit indirectly, whether a resource is potentially relevant before searching the resource's content.** (Emphasis added.)

Applicants respectfully submit that "before searching the resource's content" provides enablement support "prior to conducting the search" recited in Claim 1. Applicants further submit that "usage data that can be captured over time to provide the unified search client 110 with quantifiable information" describes one way of determining whether a resource is potentially relevant before searching the resource's content.

Claim 1 is also supported by the description of the term "usage data" recited on lines 8-13 of page 3 of the specification, which read as follows:

> The **usage data** includes such data as the frequency with which a resource is accessed, the length of time the resource was accessed, what a user did with the resource after access, e.g., opened, retrieved, browsed, edited, sent, copied, saved, created, transacted a purchase, etc. The local usage data represents the local user's interactions with a resource, whereas the non-local usage data represents an aggregation of many users' interactions with the resource. (Emphasis added.)

Like Claim 1, the remarks accompanying the rejection of Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 in the Office Action state that the phrase "prior to conducting the unified search" has not been taught in the specification to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention.

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Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that, for the same reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1, Claim 20 is also fully enabled by the specification.

Since Claims 1 and 20 are fully enabled by the specification, applicants submit that the rejection of these claims and those dependent therefrom remaining in this application under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is in error and request that it be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Based on Kincaid et al.

As noted above, as amended, Claim 1 includes the subject matter of Claims 5 and 7, which have been canceled. As a result, in essence, Claim 1 is presently previously presented dependent Claim 7 in independent form. As amended, Claim 1 reads as follows:

> A method for facilitating a search for content from disparate resources, the method comprising:
>
> displaying a unified search entry interface in response to a user request to search for content;
>
> prior to conducting the search, obtaining an automated measurement of relevance for each of a plurality of disparate resources in which to search for occurrences of a search entered into the unified search entry interface by the user, the automated measurement of relevance being based on quantified user interaction with the disparate resources, quantified user interaction including at least one of the frequency with which the user accesses the resource, the length of time that the user accessed the resource, and what the user did with the resource after access;
>
> determining relevant resources from the plurality of disparate resources in which to search for occurrences of a search term entered in the unified search entry interface, the determination being based on the automated measure of relevance;
>
> normalizing the relevant disparate resources; and
>
> blending disparate results obtained from searching for occurrences of the search term in the normalized relevant disparate resources.

Kincaid et al. clearly does not disclose or suggest, prior to conducting a search, obtaining an automated measurement of relevance for each of a plurality of disparate resources in which to search for occurrences of a search term entered into a unified search entry interface by a user.

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Nor does Kincaid et al. disclose that the automated measurement of relevance is based on quantified user interaction with the disparate resources. Nor does Kincaid et al. disclose such quantified user interaction including at least one of the frequencies with which the user accesses the resource, the length of time that the user accesses the resource, and what the user did with the resource after access. This subject matter is clearly not taught or suggested in paragraphs [0005]-[0010], [0017], [0019], [0064], [0083], and [0089]-[0091] referenced in the Office Action. Nor does Kincaid et al. disclose determining relevant resources from the plurality of disparate resources in which the search for occurrences of a search term entered in a unified search entry interface, the determination being based on the automated measure of relevance. As a result, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 and all of the claims dependent therefrom remaining in this application (Claims 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, and 9) are clearly allowable in view of the teachings or suggestions of Kincaid et al. Since Claim 20 includes similar recitations, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 20 as well as the claims dependent therefrom remaining in this application (Claims 21, 22, 23, and 26) are also clearly allowable in view of the teachings of Kincaid et al.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Based on Li et al.

Like Kincaid et al., Li et al. does not disclose or suggest a method for facilitating a search for content from disparate resources, wherein an automated measurement of relevance for each of a plurality of disparate resources in which to search for occurrences of a search term entered into a unified search entry interface by a user is obtained prior to conducting a search. Li et al. also does not disclose an automated measurement of relevance based on a quantified user interaction with the disparate resource wherein the quantified user interaction includes at least one of the frequencies with which the user accesses the resource, the length of time that the user accessed the resource, and what the user did with the resource after access. Li et al. also does not
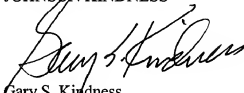
disclose such a method that includes determining relevant resources from a plurality of disparate resources in which the search for a search term entered into a unified search entry interface wherein the determination is based on an automated measurement of relevance of the type described above. As a result, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 and Claim 20, as well as all of the claims dependent therefrom remaining in this application (Claims 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, and 9; and Claims 21, 22, 23, and 26, respectively), are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above, applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Allowance of the claims and passing the application to issue at an early date are solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the applicants' representative at the number set forth below to resolve any issues that may facilitate prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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